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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT NO.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> 25X1
SUBJECT	Tension in Rumania	DATE DISTR.	21 August 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 500px; height: 40px;"></div>		
PLACE ACQUIRED	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 500px; height: 40px;"></div>		

1. On 29 June and 1 July 1953 workers who had been assembled in a number of factories were promised immediate improvements in the precarious supply situation. Complaints against the scarcity of consumer goods were beginning to assume dangerous proportions.
2. Rumors of further measures to stabilize currency continued to circulate until approximately 1 July. Panic buying was prevalent and resulted in serious losses in savings to the impoverished populace. The cause of the panic is not known; there is no inflation, and the currency appears stable. Although the panic has now abated, there is no general faith in the stability of the present currency. Shopkeepers and farmers have, however, shown a marked reluctance to sell their goods, thus contributing to an increase in prices.
3. Rumors of epidemics of polio, cholera, and tuberculosis have been prevalent in Bucharest. The press has not published any statistics, and the public would not believe them in any case.
  - a. Polio has been more severe than usual and has affected a number of adults, but it is not yet a major menace.
  - b. Although the number is not known, there have definitely been cases of cholera.
  - c. Forty percent of Bucharest youth is rumored to suffer from tuberculosis. Although this figure is certainly an exaggeration, the tuberculosis rate has increased alarmingly from overcrowding and malnutrition of the populace. Increase in voluntary physical labor and long hours of political hours after work are frequently quoted as contributory causes.

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4. Several former owners of vegetable stores have been asked by the government if they would consider returning to their previous businesses. Most of them are in state retail organizations now and are reluctant to reopen their stores because of the administrative difficulties which might be involved. Certain farmers have consulted friends in Bucharest as to whether they should accept a government offer to return part of their land.
5. The owner of a good apartment in Bucharest states that a senior government official who has occupied the apartment for some time has refused to renew the lease, although he continues to pay rent. The official had heard that requisitioned apartments were to be evacuated and returned to their original owners, and he, therefore, did not know whether he would be permitted to remain.
6. Soviet officers who have been living with their families in the vicinity of Chaussee Kiseleff have received orders to send their families home and to move into barracks of their units. Although the reason for this order is not known, it is generally believed to be connected with internal changes now in progress in the USSR.

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